LETTER

FROM

TOM o' Bedlam,

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Qui cum Jesu itis, non itis cum Jesuitis.

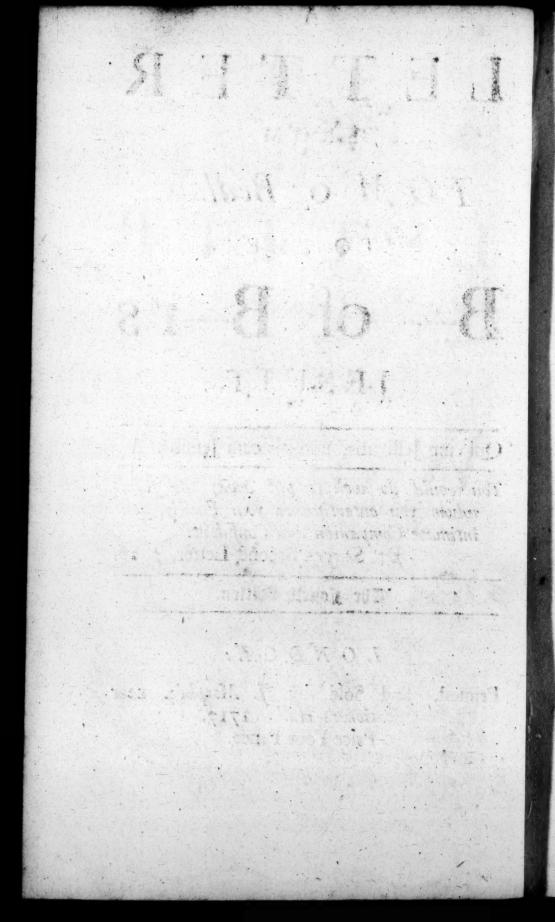
You would do well to put away the Jesuit whom you entertain in your Family, your intimate Companion and Consident.

Dr. Snape's Second Letter, p. 66.

The Fourth Coition.

LONDON:

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LETTER

FROM

Tom o' Bedlam, &c.

SIR,

you are a very cunning Fellow, and worthy our Acquaintance; being a Man not only skilled in Geometry, but Necromancy, and all other mischievous Arts and Sciences; who can as well help the Learned at a dead Lift, as a lame Dog over the Stile, by invisible Machinations not found out by Archimedes, or any of the Ancients; and more especially by your assiduous Study in the Black Art, you are become as Familiar with the Devil, as if you were an old Acquaintance; can talk to him without trembling, command him without running away, and make an Hocus Pocus of him at your Diversion; so that you as far exceed Fryer Bacon,

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as he did Fryer Bungy; nay, if it be true, as they fay, that in a little time you will make him build Brazen Steeples all over Wales, that their Clipper-Clappers may not be crack'd for want of use; no doubt, but your Portraicure will be hanged up at every Cross, as a Bugbear, instead of a Red Herring, to frighten the ungodly, if they shall ever throw the

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Bar, at play at Foot-ball on Sundays.

Proceed, little Imp, in thine own way, so that thou keep the Black Gentleman from amongst us; not but that there are several Members of our College seem desirous of a nearer Correspondence with you, but upon special Covenants and Conditions, that you will do them no harm; Especially my Sister Bess, who is run mad with Love, and old Arthur of Bradley, who is distracted with Politicks, and poor Ben of the Minories, whose Gall overslows with Religion; with many others of the Society, who know no more of what they pretend to, than the Wisemen of Gotham.

In our Society, you will soon be let into the Conneil of the Gods, as well as the Califnet of Nature; wherein you will find Phaeton fully cleared of having any Design to set the World on Fire, and the dethroning of old Saturn justified, for being too merciful to his Subjects: Great Councils called, and nothing done, but the accusing and excusing one another

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ther of Heresies, Retraction, Confessions, Ab-Solutions, limited and unlimited Power, absolute and indefeasible Right; properly and improperly, Confusion, Madness and Disorder; Gld Plato, forgetting his own Precepts of Morality, speaks loudly for Community of Wives; unto which Socrates reply'd, with as much Vehemence as became his Gravity, but the Burthen of the Song was, a little more Money: However, St. Cyprian would not allow them to be Christians who were relapsed. and therefore was for having all fuch rebaptized; till a learned Father of the Council of Trent stood up, and moved for a Writ of Enquiry after Reason and Learning, which gave occasion to Thomas Hobbs to say much to little Furpose, in behalf of a fixed Standard for his Religion; till Old Machiavel started up. and fwore that could never be, till they had all come into his Scheme of Government.

Upon which Lucifer finding himself in such Perplexity, amidst such an hideous Noise and Consusion, and that they were only likely to agree about Nothing, dissolved the Council, and immediately dispatched his trusty Mercury, Oliver Cronwell's Porter, to John Toland (the Son of an Irish Priest by a French Cook) with Letters of Advice to me, to assure me all hings would go well; but when, or at what time, he did not very well know, nor did he rouble his Head much about it; however,

a Lying Spirit was gone out into the World, and he did not doubt but at one time or other, it might be of much Service to the Common Cause. One deny'd what the other assirmed, tho' both had it from Hearsay; and yet swore heartily, what they neither believed nor practised, unless it was that they were both Liars, and so they were likely to have continued to the End of the Chapter, had not they luckily found out a third Person, Judas by Name, who made no more of a Lie, than a Dog doth

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of a Bone; fo belp him Satan.

However, he being Master of the Purse, thought he had a just Pretence to get Monies, honestly if he could, but if not, to be fure to get Monies: Tho' he betray'd his Lord and Mafter, that is all one, when he knew very well, that in two Straits, a Man must choose the least, for at the same time he could not ferve God and Mammon; for who do you imagine, that's a cunninger Man than himfelf can so justly distinguish between Right and Wrong, with the Prospect of what he is never likely to have; nor, as I know of, never ye faw: a great Place, and a little Confcience, wi eafily perfuade a Man to make the best of bad Bargain: Between two Stools, the Breed very often goes to the Ground, and fo a ver good Man may get nothing but a broken Hea for his Pains; and for a Commemoration his Folly, may be obliged to wear a Patch

(7) his dying Day; except a Whim should take him, and he should submit his Neck to the flippery Noose of a Rope, where it's Twenty to One but he may hang, till the Crows pick out his Brains, instead of a better Carcase: And who would be forry? I'm fure not his Wife; for she, to the Honour of her Hufband, shall be also hanged up for a Clapper to the Bell in our College, which shall Toll for an Hour together, every Time Women Tittle-Tattle, or meddle with what they have nothing to do with; but some may say, it will never give over then, and if it doth not? The World's all Noise, and why should not we be in the Fashion?

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Our Old Friend Thomas Bradbury is as much in Pain for the Safety of the Church. as you know who is for an Accommodation with his Old Friend Dr. Calamy; and Coll-ns s clubbing Blasphemy with his two Freebinking Friends; To--d and Tin-l, in deep Consultation how to furbish up Old Heresies, and to furnish out a New Creed for the Grecian-Coffee-House, the Contents of which are to believe in Nothing, upon which he defigns to write a System of Divinity, as soon as he can prove he ever had any Faith; and what s yet more strange, the last Mail brought us News, that the E-- of O-- is about making Reconciliation with the Pope, because he loth not know who elfe will forgive him.

I'faith

I'faith you Jesuits are very cunning Fellows; you can Comment and Distinguish away the very Life and Spirit of Religion, and play about the Brims of a Text, like a Fly with a Candle, and never leave till its utter Confusion; and at this time you have so work'd up your Political Scheme, that you have put us all by the Ears, and laugh at us for our Pains; not that we are so great Fools yet, but we can prove as well as you, that One and One makes Two; but of two Fools, we are a little puzzled to make one Wise Man.

Notwithstanding my Grandmothers Nurse told me, that her Mistress told her, that my Uncle Ben was of late set up for a Conjurer; but when I came to write to my Grandmother about it, I found she knew nothing of the Matter, nor ever heard one Word of it in all her Life, and wondered how I could be fo mistaken, to think that he should say so of her Son, but yet she believed she could tell me from whence came the Mistake; for one Gaffar Lackit came to her House, and in her Store-Room, as the was frightening the Rats from her Cheese, told her so; but however, she would write to him about it, and if he denied it, he should hear farther from her: But he defired, as a necessary Preliminary, before he explained himself, to know which of them was most likely to take the Country Seat at Durham, and if they would but secure him a good Title to either of theirs in Town, he had left him a Loop-hole to creep out at, and could serve which of them he would upon Occasion: But the Good Man at Durham not leaving his Seat as was expected, Gastar Lackit paum'd the Story upon my Grand-father, and so they all fell foul one of another, and my Uncle Ben proved at last like other Men, full of Infirmities and Passions, till he became a Scorn and Derision to all the Students.

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Now, Sir, I would have you to know, we have got a K--- amongst us, such an one as he is: The Fellow calls himself W--- the 4th; he is a very flurdy Spark, and often rides rufly, but deligns to relide with us this Summer-Season; he has a mind to take unto him a Chaplain, provided he can meet with a very cunning Man, that understands Dreams, resolves Riddles, reads a Lecture upon Palmiftry, and, upon Occasion, could raise the D--1, but not in a Hurricane, because our College has been new beautified: For you must Note, he is a very cunning Fellow himself, and pretends to Wonders if you'll believe him, and I know no one more fit than your felf for fuch an Employment; and for your Encouragement, you may be fure his Pay is good, and punctual to the Tittle of a Cow's Thumb every Latter Lammas, three quarters of an Hour before

before he goes to Breakfast, when he exonerates himself of his Superfluities, and then squats himself upon his Posteriors, where he pampers his gluttonous Appetite as deliciously with his Bowl and his Bit, as the Emperor of Morocco, and much in the same State, with a vast Retinue of Rats and Mice.

This great Man is a Projector as well as you, and by his Deportment, one would fwear he was a Jesieit also, for he hath a great Fancy to turn the World topfy-turvy, that he may obtain by Chance, what he hopes for without Defign: He feems to be a Fore gner by Buth, and near ally'd to the Man in the Moon, for his Senses commonly fluctuate with the Tide; and if any stands between him and the Sun, he storms louder than Vulcan, when he catch'd his Wife in the Net, and makes no more Bones of you, than an hungry Dog doth of a dirty Pudding; but commits you to the Charge of the Lictor, where you are to be held in safe-Custody, till Sentence is past upon you, or you are otherwise discharged by a Note profequi.

What makes us more delirous of your Conversation, is, that we can scarce keep my Sister Bess within Bounds; for the Huzzy was pretty well skilled before the came among us at Casting a Figure; and she seems to be very positive, if she could but get acquainted with you, she could Quadrate the Circle. She is

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hopes in time, by your Intercession, she may be retained House-keeper in your Family, and doubts not of making Prosetyes among her Fellow servants, for she's pert, positive and noisie; and, with a little of your Instructions, may in time come to scratch, fight and scold, in Desence of the Right of St. Peter's Chair (for Renegado's in your Communion are always the most zealous.) The other Day she crowned a merry Monarch with a Goblet of neeking Wine, for speaking disrespectfully of the Pope; and Matters would have run to a great height, had not our Senators interposed and mollished his Rage; and with great Struggle got a Noli prosequi, upon Crimen lase Majestatis.

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It has been part of the confummate Conuct of your Order, to cajole and interest, our selves among the Dissenters; to play the Proteus at all Times and Seasons; and, in he Farce you act, to shift Scenes and Cloaths fitner than at a Play-House, to screw your lives into all Communities, but more especily to bait your Gins for the Female-kind: hat to play the Battery upon a B—p, and atck one so well qualified in the Art of Sophiry, is a Design as Bold in the Attempt, as may prove Glorious in the End. Certainly must be a Sympathy of Inclination and Temer that made the Conjunction; for was there church, that did not prove so in the State? Can Contradictions agree in the same Things, or Parellels meet in the same Center? Indeed they may both be brought streight, but then they lead the Broad Way to Destruction, tho

by different Routs,

But you Jesuits have an Excellent Talent at resolving such Problems, that are not found in our Protestant Euclid; and therefore, if I am not mistaken, it is dangerous keeping Company with any of you; for Bess saith, you would have undertook to have proved her to be a Man, because Man and Wife are one Flesh: But hold, Sir, said she, not so mad yet, two Words to a Bargain; Riddle my Riddle first, and you shall deceive a Body afterwards, as foon as you pleafe; but till then, we don't think our felves unconditionally obliged to believe all you fay, altho we cannot contradict you, unless you paum upon us your gilded Baits compounded of Absolutely's and Properly's: which Words have long fince been eras dout of our Protoftent Bible, as Gins only to entrap Owls withal.

I know you infift, that the whole College have not any Authority or Power over any of our Consciences, tho our Governours indeed may have something like that over our Bodies; but let me tell you, Sir, you have no more Reason to condemn their Practice, for restrain-

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ing you from utter Ruine, than you have to blame a Man for cutting the Rope, when any one hath just hanged himself; and yet, tho the one shall be commended for faving a Life, the other must be condemned for chasting and reforming a wicked Soul, tho' it is in the ready Way to Destruction both of Soul and

Body.

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And therefore, I take the Case of all Hereticks, Schismatocks, and Enthuliasts amongst us, to be far worse than ours, who keep quietly within our Bounds and for this Reason they are very justly lock'd up in dark Cells. tills they have Grace enough to amend and conform; the Prescience of which, made our good Founder and Law-maker teave behind a wisible buman Authority in his College of Phyficians, properly to supply his Place, and upon whom the ignorant, melancholy and enthufiaflick, are absolutely to depend, when they are fo mad that they are not able to judge for themselves; and this is no more, than every one in their Senses willingly allow to their Phycifians and Lawyers; for when they have told them their Distemper or Case, they immediately submit to their Instruction and Directions, without any Limitations or Conditions on their Parts.

I am fure then, You are not kept in the Place you are in for nothing; for if I am not misinformed, you Jesuits are a devilish cun-

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ming Set of Men, and can as well make Black colliste, and colliste Black, as to make the same Words to signify something or nothing, as you please; and as one of our House lately told me, by a strange fort of Legerdemain, you make the same Use of those Words Absolutely's and Properly's, as Gamesters do of salse Dice, throw up what you please, Size or Ace, Papist or Presbyterian, it's all one, so it doth but serve a Turn: Be that as it will; but I'm certain, by this way of arguing, no one is allowed the Use of his Reason, till you are pleased to pull off the Padlock of his Understanding; which I do not believe you are obliged to do by Principle, except it be to serve a Turn Good or Bad, that's not much to the Matter, with any of your Tribe, I find.

No one can blame you for thus disputing, tho every one would be mad that granted your Position; for at this Rare, you can interpret Things or Words as you please, by the Alteration of the Sense of the same Words and Sounds; for I believe you never regard what Shape or Colour you appear in, so you can but deceive; and that you may devour sometimes, you pull off the Mask, and then you are for Authority without Coercion; at other times you herd with the Quakers, and then the Operation of the Spirit is very large; nay, then you stickle much; yea, verily and indeed,

deed, very much, for Liberty of Conscience; to the Jews, you Jesuits become as Jews; and to the Gentiles even as such; but not with the Apostle's Intention to gain some, but

to betray all.

Upon fecond Thoughts, to be plain with you, I do not like you, and I am forry you have infinuated your felf into fo good a Man's House: I warrant you, you pretend to have as great an Aversion to Popery, and the Whore of Babylon, as the Devil hath to Holy Water; but I fear the Snake is in the Grass: Those of your Fraternity, can fay one thing, and mean another; for if you should go on long at this Rate, it will be impossible to know what any one means, except you take his meaning for his mumping, or unless you mean not to be understood; and then, I dare venture to fay, there's no meaning in you.

Now, suppose your Patron should think fit to continue you in his Family, can you perfuade us it would be any Credit to him? No, none at all, as I know of, till you have given the World better Satisfaction, than you have yet of your Conversion, as I have heard of yet. It is agreed on all Hands, you were once a Fesuit, and I do not find that you deny it; and his very well known, Equivocation is a Golden Rule among you, and that you are allowed to fay one thing, and mean another; nay, to go round the World to make one Profe-

bite;

make him ten times worse than he was before. It's very well the Honest Man you have to do with, is as wise as your self, or else you would soon delude the Man into a Trap, and then laugh at his Credulity: But, God be thanked, be can fight you with your own Weapons, and knows very well, that the disferent sound of Words very much alters their meaning, as well as the Changes of Time their Signification. If I am not mistaken, i saith, if you meddle with him, you'll catch a Tartar.

But, suppose you should become a Protestant indeed, I believe you are not as yet determined what Persuasion to joyn with; I am
almost sure the Church has but little Share in
you, because strait is the Gate, and Apostolical
is the Way, that leadeth thereunto: And
then, as for the Presbyterians, who pretend
to so much Religion, and practise so little, one
may justly believe won't receive you, except
you give a better Account of your Reformation, than you have as yet done; altho they
may justly enough lay Claim to you, because
if I am right, as I think I am, they themselves were first converted, or rather perverted by Father Parsons, a Jesuit of your own
Order, and they were in those Days known
and distinguished by the Name of Puritans.

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The Independents have indeed, by the help of some of your Society since, grown backward in Grace, and made a further Progress in Heterodoxy, nay, thrown off all Dependence that is not consistent with their Independent State, where every one that has enough of the Mark of the Beast in his Forehead, to talk Nonsense or Blasphemy, rules more absolutely, by an implicit Faith, the Minds of the People with the Sound of Election and Reprobation, than a Priest with his bald Pate at faying Mass in an unknown Tongue, or a Mufiy by mumbling over the Alchoran; fo they have fomewhat a nearer Claim to your Conversion, for they, as well as you, believe Election, but not in the same Sense, tho' much to the same Purpose; each believing there's no Salvation out of the Pale of their own pretended Church, tho' neither shewe any Marks of Religion, whereby they may be judged worthy of the Name of Christians; for they that are not for any outward Visible Sign, can never be thought to have any Spiritual Grace, notwithstanding all their outward Pretences to the contrary and therefore such are unworthy of the Cross of Christ, who will not take it up and follow him: But those Principles are as wild, as the People were, among whom they were first propagated, and therefore unworthy of the practife of a Soph. and on salad and gradio as tem to day a react Affiner to rous Or

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But then of the Quakers; I can never think of them, but they give me a perfect Idea of your Order: I never was at the Bull and Month in my Life, but the Speakers put me in mind of Guy Vaux, with their short Cloaks and little demure Cravats; that one may eafily conclude, Guy, by his Last Will and Testament bequeath'd that Fashion along with his dark Lanthorn to these People, for an Encouragement for them to blow up the Church and State, by their inward Light, in which he miscarried with his outward: Now, these People have their Missionaries as well as you, are also compleat Masters of Equivocation, who feem to be begot by a Jesuit of the Whore of Babylon, and so are as monstrous in their Principles as Persons; whose Upper-Bench feems to be the Senior-Fellows of your College in Council, and a Bilent Meeting very much refembles the Holy Sisters at Auricular Confession.

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I consess, their Beauties are placed in the Gallery, where the Male Penitents (the Flesh often overcoming the Spirit) gaze with more Devotion, than any of your dead Saints upon the Roofs, could ever attract from the most

Religious of your Order.

Now, Sir, these People pretend to come under the Notion of being Protestants, as well as others, but being no better than your selves, seem to have a nearer Affinity to your Order, than

than any other Sect in this distracted Nation; besides, with them, no one has any Command over another's Conscience, but every one may speak, in his own way, altho' it be Blasphemy without Limitation: Nonsense seems to be particularly adapted to their Principles, but yet with this mental Reservation, that it be to serve a Turn.

They are as much Masters of their own Inter ft, as you or any Body else; altho' they deny all Principalities and Powers, and won't let any better them, which is also agreeable enough to your Coercive Doctrine of Obedience, whom you obey no longer, than he obeys you: I think, in leed, they a little differ from you in their Devotion, for they feem to have Intenseness of Heat in abundance at their Meetings; but when you consider the Meaning of their Words, they are calm and undiflurted en ish in all Conscience; and one would think it is almost impossible to make any Alteration in the Intension of their Words, because the Efficacy thereof lies very much in the Sound, which has much the fame Relish and Sense also to a Stander-by, as the Organs at Hogs-Norton where the Pigs play.

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These People called Quakers, as well as you called Jesuits, pretend to be altogether under the Government of the Spirit, and own to King but Christ, whom they believe the sole Judge of their Eebaviour in the Assaurs

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of Constience, and eternal Salvation, and therefore that he has left no Vicegerent, who can be said properly to supply his Place; no Interpreters, upon whom his Subjects are absolutely to depend, and so every now and then, when the Fit takes them, they deny the Authority of the Scripture, and stile it a dead Letter, and they vaunt out, that they only being moved by the Spirit, are of Christ's Kingdom, nay Christs themselves, and what not.

Now, Sir, if you defign to become famous in your Generation, and to settle among these People called Qu kers, I would advise you to get his L -- p's Sermon, and his Preservative; which will undoubtedly fortifie you against any Herefie, that shall creep in amongst you: I beg your pardon, I should rather have said Contention, for if every one has Liberty to serve God in his own way, no Man can be guilty of an Herefie to ferve God any Way: But every Man that doth not obey the Ordinances of God, doth not ferve God according to his Commands; and the Quakers do not obey the Ordinances of God, therefore by ferving God their own Way, don't ferve God at all, and are Guilty of Herefie.

I cannot conclude, without desiring you we enquire of your Patron, whether he thinks his Ecoks or his Advertisements have done more good to Religion, or to his Reputation,

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which he seems so tender of, and for which he is resolved to stand up; and i saith he hath occasion enough to do so, and I can assure you, the other concerns him more as a Christian, and more especially as a B.—. I own the Way of proceeding in this Controversy is somewhat new, and by the many that have interested themselves in the Dispute, at first gave some Thoughts to our Governours to enlarge our House, but when we came to read the List of the Petitioners, we concluded that half the Kingdom would not suffice, unless we put two

in a Room.

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On one Side stood the Church and her Reverend Clergy, on the other, all Sorts of Difsenters of what Denomination soever, beside Free-Thinkers, Anythingarians, Atheists and whole Shoals of Muggletonians, so that in fhort, the People without have outvoted us, and fince we have got a K -- of our own, we are refolv'd to eat our Victuals when we can get it, tofs up our Straw, rattle our Chains, and fleep when we are tired? The Season heightens our Calenture; the Influences of the Dog-Star are almost Universal, and the far greater Number are more tainted without, than we are within: The Noise and Bustle of this late Controverly have affected us fo nearly, that we are afraid of an Innundation of Outliers, that will strip us of our Posts, and diwest us of our Privileges; and therefore, to fecure the old Denizens of this Place, in the full Extent and Power of their Charter, we shall pass a Bill against any Naturalizations, and secure our Property with the strongest Fences we can make.

But 'tis now high time, Sir, to draw towards a Conclusion; and tho' our Academy is not over-celebrated for profound Politicks, and wholsome Advice, yet I must tell you, we are not altogether destitute of a Prophetick Spirit, I conjure you, take Warning by the provident Virmin, and quit the Pile that's already a falling: In short, pack up your Awls, and be gone, and give your Mafter the Goby, for I am afraid, if you flay, you'll fuffer in the Flesh. You'll have this Letter IR, fixed on your Forehead, which may be meritorious at Doway and Liege; but in this ill-natured Part of the World, it stands for something else: Bring to your Recollection poor Father * Heath; he was as Famous in his Generation, as your felf; he could Pray, Preach, and Prevaricate, with any Jesuit of you all; and yet an Ecclefiastical Operation on his Nose, had a wonderful Effect on his Diction. I'll appeal to your felf, what an indifferent Figure a Man makes, when his Ears are cropt like a Curr; and this was a Circumcifion in vogue in our Country.

That was served thus in Q. Elizabeth's Reign, by Guest, Bishop of Rochester.

Country. Might the Freedom of an old Refident have any Weight with you, I would rather keep my Members entire, where Nature has thought fit to fix them, than to have a Licture in the Confiftory, or my Statue fix'd on a Pedestal, in the Vatican. Go, be cannoniz'd, and stand strutting in Red Letters, is not that an Equivalent for being fent on a Fooi's Errand out of this World, may be, to a worse. And let me farther inform you, an Old-Baily Jury, at this time of the Day, is not to be put off with Sophiffry, and double Entendres: Martyrdom's grown Stale, and is quite out of Fashion; and if you have any respect to your self, rather give up the Pope and his Conclave, than fuffer the Pillory. Let me prefs you to think on your Security; the Isle of Wight, or a Translation to Count Gyllemlorg's Appartments, are the least you can expect; and Plymeuth, for Life, is no very agreeable Prospect: But use, as your Discreons thinks fit, the Counsel of

Your Friend and Brother,

Dogs-Days, July 23.

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A,

Tom o' Bedlam.

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POSTSCRIPT.

to Silvani Po

T the Signing of this, my Sifter Best A brought me a long Scrowl in the Daily-Courant, without Beginning or Ending, which at first fight I took to be a Taylor's Bill; but it depending very much on the Honesty of the Man, seems to be a very Black Account of a White Matter, and much of the same Nature with one be was formerly guilty of, in Aspersing a Clergy-man to the late B--p of London, as if he had cast some Reflections upon him; but his Lordship, not very well kenning the Story, had them Face to Face, and charged the Matter home upon Kwith which he was so surprized, that he rose up with his usual Front, and affured his Lordship he was mistaken, he was not the Man; bow could be think it of him? Now if I cannot prove this absolutely, I believe it posttively; and am credibly informed by a Living Man, that there is a Living Man, who will produce a Living Man, who will be a Living Witness, that he was then and there present; and he is of as high a Degree as himfelf, that will affirm the Truth of this; therefore, for God-sake, Bess, let's have no more of it, for the more you stir in a T-d, the more it flinks.

FINIS.

